

EO-411

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

**POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (Sub-No. 446X)

**FEBRUARY 13, 2007**

**ABANDONMENT TYPE**

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(X) Notice of Exemption ( ) Petition for Exemption ( ) Regulated Abandonment

( ) **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on January 19, 2007 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended two environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

**Comments on the EA**

SEA received one comment after issuance of the EA. The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) identified ten (10) geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. Therefore, SEA recommends a new condition to address this concern.

**Modifications to the EA**

Not applicable.

**Conclusions**

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following

conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. BNSF Railway Company shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prior to completing any remaining salvage activities and consummating abandonment to discuss potential impacts to any Federally listed endangered or threatened species. The railroad shall report the results of this consultation to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in writing. Should any potential impacts be identified, the railroad shall consult with SEA and USFWS to develop appropriate mitigation measures.
2. BNSF Railway Company shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. BNSF Railway Company shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the Minnesota Historical Society and any other Section 106 consulting parties. BNSF Railway Company may not initiate any remaining salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of the tracks and ties) or file its consummation notice until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.
3. BNSF Railway Company shall notify the National Geodetic Survey at least 90 days prior to beginning any remaining salvage activities in order to plan for the possible relocation of the geodetic station markers by NGS.

If the above conditions are imposed, SEA believes that the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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